REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 11 and 32-34 are withdrawn and claims 1-10, 12-31 and 35 are under consideration. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 35 has been added. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the limitations of "a message unit for outputting the message corresponding to the sending source. . . " renders at least claims 1 and 3 indefinite because the message is not yet clarified. The Examiner asserts that it is unclear what the message corresponding to the sending source is. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

One of ordinary skill in the art would certainly understand what is meant by a message which corresponds to a user, as described in the specification at pg. 16, line 2 through at least pg. 17, line 15. In the specification, Applicant describes that various message types can be associated with a particular user (sender), such as an audible tone or signal, a voice message, and a visual display (pg. 16, lines 17-18). For example, and according to claim 1, user A may sent a print job which also contains information of that user (sending source). The controller detects the particular sending source (in this case, user A), and determines whether the sending source has been registered in the memory. A messaging unit outputs the message previously associated with user A if it is detected that user A is indeed a registered sending source. Accordingly, if user A sends a print job to the printer, a unique message associated with user A will be output in a fashion which corresponds to the type of message. For example, a speaker will play an audio message if that is the message type associated with user A. This way, user A can easily identify his or her print job, which will prevent that print job from being mixed-up with other irrelevant (to user A) print jobs. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as pending is not indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

va-126579

Claims 1-10 and 12-31 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Salgado, U.S. Patent 5,777,882, and Hasegawa, U.S. Patent 5,534,974. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has maintained this rejection without responding to Applicant's previous traversal. However, the fact remains that neither Salgado or Hasegawa, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1.

As mentioned above, according to claim 1, a sending source may sent a print job which also contains information of that sending source to a receiving unit. A controller detects the sending source, and determines whether the sending source has been registered in the memory. A messaging unit outputs a message previously associated with the sending source if it is detected that the sending source is indeed a registered sending source. Accordingly, if user A sends a print job to the printer, a unique message associated with user A will be output in a fashion which corresponds to the type of message. For example, a speaker will play an audio message if that is the message type associated with that sending source. This way, a particular sending source can easily identify his or her print job, which will prevent that print job from being mixed-up with other irrelevant (to that sending source) print jobs.

Salgado discloses a printer having a plurality of mail bins. The Examiner admits that Salgado does not teach a messaging unit for outputting a message corresponding to the sending source when the controller determines that the sending source has been registered in the memory. The Examiner lies on Hasegawa as teaching this feature, but Applicant respectfully submits that Hasegawa likewise fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

According to Hasegawa, an information table for the paper supplying trays is provided as shown in Fig. 3 (col. 4, lines 38-39). Information such as the status of each tray, a paper size and an occupying user ID for each tray is registered in the information table (col. 4, lines 40-43). This allows the system of Hasegawa to notify a user who attempts to print to a particular paper tray, that another user is the registered user of that paper tray. This notification feature is what the Examiner

considers to correspond to the claimed messaging unit for outputting the message corresponding to the sending source when the controller detects that the sending source has been stored. However, the message output by Hasegawa does not correspond to a sending source, but is rather sent to a sending source to notify that sending source that their chosen paper tray is already registered to another user. Although a message may be output by Hasegawa, this message is not the same as the message of claim 1. Thus, Hasegawa fails to teach that which the Examiner asserts and the combination of Hasegawa fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that there would have been no motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. As suggested previously, Salgado is directed to a system in which the user has an assigned mailbox bin, thus the identification of which user has sent the print job is all that is needed to direct the print job to the correct mailbox bin. This ensures the print job will be delivered to the desired location. It would be totally unnecessary to further include information about the output destination in the print job because the purpose of Salgado is to assign the mailbox bin before the print job is sent. Adding this additional bit of information would not add any value to the system of Salgado. Thus, there would not have been any motivation to combine Salgado and Hasegawa as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 2 is allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and further due to its dependency.

Claim 3 recites the same features discussed above in connection with claim 1, and is therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 4-10 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 12 is also allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claims 13-16 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Claim 17 recites that the printer is instructed to print when the sending source is registered. By implication, if the sending source is not registered, the print job will not be

completed. The Examiner asserts that this feature is taught by Hasegawa. However, there would have been no motivation to modify Salgado in light of Hasegawa for the reasons set forth above. Namely, before the print job is sent in Salgado, the bin is assigned to a user. Thus, it is not necessary to actually check to see if the sending source is registered because that is already preset and thus it will be assumed that the source is registered. This would add no value to Salgado.
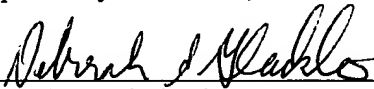
Claims 18-31 and 35 are allowable at least due their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772015300.

Dated: September 8, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

                                            By _Deborah S. Gladstein_
                                            Deborah S. Gladstein
                                               Registration No.: 43,636
                                            MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
                                            1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
                                            McLean, Virginia 22102
                                            (703) 760-7753

va-126579